were, the situation could be re-established. For days we were in a state of doubt. As I shall point out later on, the attachment of even the superior officers to the present occupants of the Throne had been completely alienated. No one at Petrograd knew what had happened to the Czar. Two days after the Revolution had broken out, the Minister for Foreign Affairs " did not believe it would be difficult to put down the rising, as the insurgents would before long get tired out and run short of provisions."[55] And even M. Gutchkoff, of the Executive Committee, told Sir George Buchanan that [ec] he did not regard the situation as desperate, if only the Emperor would follow the advice tendered to him and reconstruct the Government.[55]

But on 15th March, Sir George Buchanan, wiring to Mr. Balfour, says that " nothing is known as to where the Emperor actually is at present or as to when he is likely to arrive at Tsarskoe Selo."[35] He points out that " the delay may have most serious consequences, as the extreme Socialist Party is gaining ground every-where."[5] They were agitating for a Republic and there was a strong Peace Party in their ranks. A Provisional Government was then set up with only one Social-Democrat, Kerensky, in it, and they decided to demand the abdication of the Emperor.

The most serious factor of all was the conflict between the Duma and the Throne. Almost from

the outset the soldiers and sailors took the side of the popular Assembly. In a few days the Czar had abdicated. There was some idea of appointing the Czarevitch as his successor, with the Grand Duke Michael as Regent, but the fond and anxious parents declined to put their son in that jeopardy. The Czar nominated his brother the Grand Duke Michael, but